

Hamorton, June 5, 1864. 29

My Dear Wife:

It is now Monday morning. The throng of guests at this hospitable residence of our friends, the Mendenhalls, have nearly all departed, and in the course of an hour Theodore Tilton and wife and myself will be off for Wilmington and Baltimore, expecting to reach the latter city by 7 o'clock in the evening. From Baltimore I shall go to Washington, making as brief a stay as I can - being desirous, for your sake, to reach home as soon as I can accomplish the object of my visit.

We concluded our series of meetings yesterday - having held seven long consecutive sessions, with crowded audiences throughout. Of course, what with much public speaking, and an infinite amount of "small talk," and visiting here and there, and shaking hands promiscuously, and late hours, and loss of sleep, I am pretty thoroughly used up, yet in very good health and spirits. I have had the kindest and the warmest reception on all hands. No where in the country do I find such friends or meet with



such greetings as here. My happiness would have been complete if you could have been with me, restored to the full use of your limbs, and able to endure the delightful fatigues of such a visit. Many regrets have been expressed on account of your illness and absence. In your restoration there is a heartfelt interest, and a heavy load of friendly anxiety will be removed from many minds on hearing of your entire convalescence.

Among others at our meetings has been Anna Dickinson. She made us two speeches—both very acceptable; but the one at the close of our meetings yesterday was the best and most eloquent I have ever heard from her lips. It was upon the condition of women, and the question of their labor. She did not touch upon the Presidential question, either in public or in private, at any time, and I am inclined to think has grown wiser since she was in Boston. She is going on to Baltimore with Tilton and myself, accompanied by the Hutchinsons, (John's family,) who have been with us during our meetings, adding much to the interest of the occasion by their songs. They and Anna expect to hold a meeting together in Baltimore.



My only shrinking from going to Baltimore and Washington is in reference to speech-making, which I shall strenuously aim to avoid, but may be forced to say something. I want to devote my whole time looking about in both cities, and have little desire to see any of the public celebrities. Doubtless, however, I shall have an interview with the President, Secretary Chase, Stanton, Sumner, Wilson, &c. In Baltimore, I am to be hospitably entertained by the son of my old friend John Needles. Friend Needles is out of the city, suffering from a bad fall he received several months ago, but his venerable wife is at home, and she has sent me a very kind letter in reply to my own. My emotions on reaching Baltimore, and going to the old prison after an absence of thirty-four years, will be indescribable.

I wish you could have been with me, so as to have participated in the abundance of strawberries and cream which we have had while here. Our generous-hearted friend, Hannah Cox, if I were to return immediately to Boston, would rejoice to send a generous supply to you and the family.



Did I mention, in my letter of Saturday, that Father Chace and his wife, of Providence, were with us at our meetings? The old gentleman is looking almost as well as he did thirty years ago, and seemed to me as old then as now. ~~Is~~ it a delusion to believe that abolitionists are the best preserved people in the country?

There are many in this region who want to see Fanny. I hope it will be so, next September, she will be able to come to Philadelphia and to Longwood. She must have some recreation, and a long respite from the heavy cares and responsibilities which have devolved upon her since your illness. God be praised for giving us such a child!

How I wish dear Franky was with me! One of these days, he, too, must come here, and see how beautiful it is.

I do not know how the Liberator will get along without me; but I know William will try to do what he can, and perhaps friend Whipple will kindly give some little additional attention.

kindest remembrances to Lavinia - boundless love for yourself  
Indiscoverably your own,  
W. L. G.